gard and the steps taken by the Government n the matter so that no patient should be heated by these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New drug policy and foreign multinational companies

1307. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994, and state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed foreign Multi-national companies to enter the field of drugs in the country in a big way if so, whether any proposals have been received and approved by the Government so far ; and

(b) what are the reasons for non-availability of essential drugs even after the recent hike and steps taken to ensure regular supply thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) There has been no change in the Drug Policy, 1986 in respect of foreign equity participation. Companies with direct foreign equity upto 40% are on par with wholly Indian companies. The activities of the companies with foreign equity more than 40% are restricted to the 66 bulk drugs as listed at Annexure—'A' in Drug Policy, 1986.

(b) No general shortage of life saving drugs, except localised shortages of some particular branded formulations have been reported from time to time. Even in such instances of temporary shortages, therapeutic equivalents of medicines are normally available.

Study of BICP on drug formulations and pricing

1308. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD :

Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994 ; and state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in the announcement of the New Drug Policy is attributed to a corresponding delay on the part of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in completing its studies on drug formulation and pricing ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the BICP has already submitted a part of the report and if so, how soon Government expects the full report to be in its hands ;

(c) whether Government contemplates recommending interim/provisional prices for drugs in case of further delay in the submission of BICP study reports ; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the policy had been referred to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Price fixation/revision of bulk drugs is an ongoing exercise and the effort is on to clear the backing and fix the price in consultation with BICP.

(d) The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers was required to finalize its views.

Revision of ceiliig prices of formulation

1309. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of ceilling prices of formulations which have not been revised for the last three to five years ;

(b) what are the ceilling prices of formulations which have been revised on suomoto basis after DPCO, 1987 and what are those where BICP refused to do so ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a constant corruption in the BICP and the Ministry and undue benefits have been given to the formulatiors at the cost of consumer ;

(d) what steps have been taken to look into and revise the prices of Ranitidine, Cemitidine, Chloramphenicol and several other drugs where market prices are lower than notified prices ; and